

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An improved electrical connector, comprising:

a main connector housing;

a stereo plug protruding from a front surface of the main connector housing;

a first pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a first side of the stereo plug; and

a second pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a second side of the stereo plug opposite the first side of the stereo plug; and

an alignment key positioned between the stereo plug and one of the first and second pairs of electrical contacts.

2. (currently amended) The electrical connector of claim 1, and ~~further comprising an alignment feature protruding wherein the alignment key protrudes from the front surface of the main connector housing.~~

3. (currently amended) The electrical connector of claim 2, wherein the alignment feature key protrudes from the front surface of the main connector housing adjacent the stereo plug.

4. (currently amended) The electrical connector of claim 3, wherein the alignment feature ~~further comprises an alignment key extending~~ extends from the front surface in a direction away from the front surface which is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis along which the stereo plug protrudes.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The electrical connector of claim 4, wherein the alignment key extends away from the stereo plug along a longitudinal direction of the front surface of the main connector housing.

7. (original) The electrical connector of claim 6, wherein the stereo plug comprises:

a plurality of electrical contacts spaced apart along the longitudinal axis of the stereo plug; and

a plurality of insulators spaced apart along the longitudinal axis of the stereo plug, each of the plurality of insulators electrically separating adjacent ones of the plurality of electrical contacts.

8. (currently amended) An improved electrical connector, comprising:

a main connector housing;

a stereo plug protruding from a front surface of the main connector housing, the stereo plug comprising:

a plurality of electrical contacts spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of the stereo plug; and

a plurality of insulators spaced apart along the longitudinal axis of the stereo plug, each of the plurality of insulators electrically separating adjacent ones of the plurality of electrical contacts;

a first pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a first side of the stereo plug;

a second pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a second side of the stereo plug opposite the first side of the stereo plug; and

an The electrical connector of claim 7, wherein the

alignment key is formed integrally with one of the plurality of electrical insulators of the stereo plug.

9. (currently amended) An improved electrical connector, comprising:

a main connector housing;

a stereo plug protruding from a front surface of the main connector housing, the stereo plug comprising:

a plurality of electrical contacts spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of the stereo plug; and

a plurality of insulators spaced apart along the longitudinal axis of the stereo plug, each of the plurality of insulators electrically separating adjacent ones of the plurality of electrical contacts;

a first pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a first side of the stereo plug;

a second pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a second side of the stereo plug opposite the first side of the stereo plug; and

an electrical connector of claim 7, wherein the alignment key is formed integrally with one of the plurality of electrical contacts of the stereo plug.

10. (currently amended) The electrical connector of claim 2, wherein the main connector housing further comprises: An improved electrical connector, comprising:

a main connector housing;

a stereo plug protruding from a front surface of the main connector housing;

a first pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a first side of the stereo

plug;

a second pair of electrical contact pins supported by the main connector housing on a second side of the stereo plug opposite the first side of the stereo plug; and an alignment feature protruding from the front surface of the main connector housing;

wherein the main connector housing further comprises:

an upper pin housing, the upper pin housing having an outer surface and an inner surface, the outer surface forming a continuous surface with a surface of the main connector housing, the first pair of electrical contact pins being disposed along the inner surface of the upper housing;

a lower pin housing disposed in spaced-apart relation to the upper pin housing, the lower pin housing having an outer surface and an inner surface, the outer surface forming a continuous surface with the surface of the main connector housing, the inner surface facing the inner surface of the upper pin housing, the second pair of electrical contact pins being disposed along the inner surface of the lower pin housing; and

wherein the stereo plug protrudes from the front surface of the main connector housing between the inner surface of the lower pin housing and the inner surface of the upper pin housing.

11. (original) The electrical connector of claim 10, wherein the electrical connector is adapted to connect to a jack, wherein the stereo plug is adapted to connectively insert into a plug port of the jack, and wherein the upper pin housing and the lower pin housing are adapted to connectively engage a forward plug port housing of the jack.

12. (original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein the stereo plug includes a plurality of electrical contact pins for engaging a corresponding plurality of electrical contacts disposed along an interior surface of the plug port of the jack.

13. (original) The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein the plurality of electrical contact pins of the stereo plug comprise:
a microphone contact;
a right speaker contact;
a left speaker contact; and
an analog ground contact.

14. (original) The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein the first pair of electrical contact pins engage a corresponding pair of electrical contacts disposed along an upper surface of a forward section of the plug port housing of the jack.

15. (original) The electrical connector of claim 14, wherein the pair of electrical contact pins of the upper housing includes:
a clock contact pin; and
a digital ground pin.

16. (original) The electrical connector of claim 14, wherein the second pair of electrical contact pins engage a corresponding pair of electrical contacts disposed along a lower surface of a forward section of the plug port housing of the jack.

17. (original) The electrical connector of claim 16, wherein the pair of electrical contact pins of the lower housing includes:
a data pin; and
a power pin.

18. (original) The electrical connector of claim 16,
wherein the jack is mounted within a casing of an electronic
device, such that a face surface of the forward section
of the jack is flush with an exterior surface of the
casing of the electronic device;
wherein an upper housing receiving port is defined in the
casing immediately above the upper surface of the
forward section of the jack;
wherein a lower housing receiving port is defined in the
casing immediately below the lower surface of the
forward section of the jack; and
wherein, when the electrical connector is connected to the
jack, the upper pin housing is inserted into the upper
housing receiving port and the lower pin housing is
inserted into the lower housing receiving port such
that the electrical connector is mated to the casing of
the electronic device.

19. (original) A hand-held personal computer including the jack
of claim 14 to which the electrical connector is adapted to
connect.

20. (original) A hand-held digital assistant including the jack
of claim 14 to which the electrical connector is adapted to
connect.

21. (original) A wireless telephone including the jack of claim
14 to which the electrical connector is adapted to connect.

22. (original) A paging device including the jack of claim 14 to
which the electrical connector is adapted to connect.

23. (original) An electronic device including the jack of claim 14 to which the electrical connector is adapted to connect.